

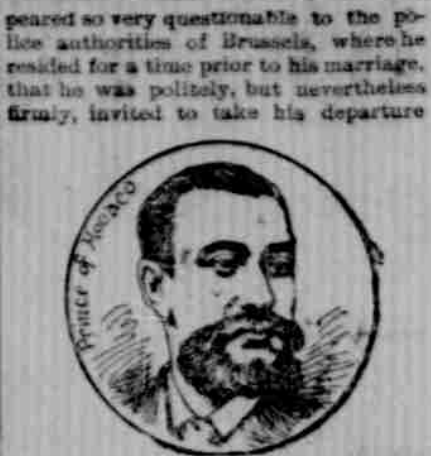
THESE BE BAD ONES

History of the Quartet Owning Monaco Gambling Hell.

FIRST RANK OF SCOUNDRELS

Men Who Are Responsible for 5,272 Authentic Cases of Suicide—They All Have High Sounding Titles.

The lawsuit now in progress in the French courts against Edmond Blanc, the reigning prince of Monaco's presence at the Colombian fete of Genoa as an insult both to the Italian king and to the French government, and the recent failure of M. Edmond Blanc to get himself elected to the chamber of deputies at Paris, may serve to attract public attention for a moment to these two personages, who, together with Prince Constantine Radziwill and the so-called "prince" nor "Bonaparte," own, control and run the great gambling hell at Monte Carlo. The latter has often been portrayed in print, elaborate and detailed descriptions have been published of the manner in which the enterprise is managed, as well as of the huge profits which it yields every year. But the quartet of proprietors above mentioned have hitherto escaped careful notice, and all that the general public has been led to believe by the corrupt French press, which receives annually close upon a million of francs in bribes from Monte Carlo Societe des Jeux, is that M. Edmond Blanc is the manifest mayor of La Cella St. Cloud and the most enlightened patrons of the turf; that Prince Roland Bonaparte is both a distinguished savant and an authentic Bonaparte; that Prince Constantine



PRINCE CHARLES OF MONACO, DEAD.

Radziwill is an honored member of the illustrious Russian family of that name, and that the prince of Monaco will remain on record in the book of fame by reason of the services which he has rendered to science. We are assured, moreover, that all four men accept with the utmost reluctance the income accruing to each from the Societe des Jeux; that they are, so to speak, the victims of circumstances over which they have no control, and that they endeavor to atone in a measure for the ignominious source of their wealth by charity practiced on a scale proportionate to their fortune.

The principal and managing partner of the concern is M. Edmond Blanc, chevalier of the Legion of Honor, mayor of La Cella St. Cloud and the proprietor of one of the principal racing stables of France. His wife, still a beautiful woman, being mayoress, is at present at the head of the local charities and president of an important district school directed by a number of nuns. The latter, good and holy women, that they are, merely see in M. Edmond Blanc a pious benefactor, and have manifestly never set their eyes on the peculiar decollete photographs of the lady which are still to be found in the out-of-the-way shops in Paris. For M. Edmond Blanc was formerly known in the demi-monde of the French capital by the name of Alice Marot.

M. Edmond Blanc himself is indebted for his Cross of the Legion of Honor to the fact that he created \$20,000 in the newspaper La Petite France, owned by M. Daniel Wilson, the son-in-law of



PRINCE ROLAND BONAPARTE.

President Grevy. That is to say, he acquired the decoration by purchase, since all the payments to M. Wilson for crosses of the order, which he sold, were made under the guise of subscriptions to La Petite France. This fact was made clear during the government inquiry into the Legion of Honor scandals, which resulted in M. Wilson's expulsion from parliament, and in the obligatory resignation of his father-in-law, M. Grevy, from the presidency of the republic. Indeed, the decoration of M. Edmond Blanc was one of the causes which led to the discovery of the disgraceful traffic. It is worthy of note that no less than three successive ministers of commerce and agriculture refused to countersign President Grevy's decree conferring the cross upon M. Blanc, and that whereas in former days the latter was a welcome and frequent guest at the Elysee Palace, he has never been permitted to cross the threshold since M. Carnot has succeeded to the presidency.

Prince Constantine Radziwill, part proprietor of the Monte Carlo establishment, and brother-in-law of M. Edmond Blanc, owes his entire fortune to his marriages with Mile. Sophie Blanc. Of illustrious Russian descent—his family possesses the titular dukedom of Olita Niewicz, Dubinski and Birne—he is nevertheless the least respectable and least respected of the four-part proprietors of the gambling establishment. The younger son of an impoverished branch of his family, he lived the life of a disreputable adventurer until his marriage, dependent for a living, like Paul and Francis, upon the bounty of the trailer portion of the fair sex.

from Belgium. It is hardly necessary for me to add that Prince Constantine, and, of course, his wife as well, are completely ostracized by all the best Parisian society, as well by the foreign diplomatic corps, and notwithstanding his Russian birth and titles, neither Prince nor yet Princess Constantine Radziwill have ever been permitted to set their foot inside the Russian embassy at Paris. In the same manner the court and society of Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, and indeed, of every capital of Europe, have closed their doors against them.

Prince Roland Bonaparte, the third member of the firm which owns the Monte Carlo gambling establishment, is, like his brother-in-law, Prince Radziwill, indebted to his union with Edmond Blanc's sister, Marie, for his present affluence, since at the time of his marriage he was absolutely penniless. Unlike Prince Radziwill, however, he possesses neither illustrious birth and ancestry, nor yet authentic rank. For, as I stated above, he is neither entitled to assume the title of prince nor the name of Bonaparte. His mother was not married to his father at the time of his birth, which took place at Paris in 1838. For notwithstanding the fact that the ordinarily correct Almanach de Gotha gives the date of their union as March 22, 1838, the marriage was really celebrated for the first time on the 30th of December, 1871, at the French legation at Brussels.

Roland's father was Prince Peter Bonaparte, who was famed as being the most disreputable member of Napoleon III's family. In his younger days he had been obliged to flee from Italy in consequence of his murder of a gamekeeper who had attempted to prevent him from poaching on private property. Nor was this the only blood with which his hands were stained. For in Jan-



PRINCE CONSTANTINE RADZIWILL.

uary, 1870, he shot down, in his own home at Paris, the French journalist, Victor Noir, who, together with a M. de Fonville, had called for the purpose of making the final arrangements for a duel which was to take place between their friend, M. Grosset, and the prince. It was this last crime of Prince Peter which precipitated the overthrow of the empire of France. So much for Roland's father.

His mother was the daughter of a plumber, and became acquainted with Prince Peter Bonaparte for the first time in 1853, when not only she, but also her sister Eliza, became attached to the prince's household, not in the capacity of servants, but in that of belles amies. Both bore children to the prince, but whereas those of the elder sister, Justine—namely, Roland and his sister, Jeanne, were permitted to remain under the prince's roof, those of the younger sister Eliza were sent to the founding asylum at Paris. Both sisters remained with the prince, living in a promiscuity which it is impossible to describe, until 1892, when the prince succeeded in marrying off Eliza to an official of the Octroi, or metropolitan customs administration. The marriage, however, did not turn out well; the couple are now divorced, and Roland's aunt lives on a pension which he allows her. After the war of 1870 Prince Peter lost the allowance of \$30,000 which he had received up to that time from his cousin, Emperor Napoleon III., and having no longer any means of subsistence, proceeded to desert his two children and Justine, who had meanwhile become his wife. It was then that Justine,



who, on the strength of her marriage with him, at Brussels, had assumed the title of Princess Peter Bonaparte, started a dressmaker's shop in London, at No. 91 New Bond street. The sign over the door was as follows: "Princess Pierre Bonaparte, marchande de confections pour dames." At the same time she openly took up her abode with a Charles Cross wine merchant who went by the name of Terry. Notwithstanding the financial assistance of the latter, the now-faded princess found it impossible to make both ends meet, and pressed for want of money, embarked upon a course of fraud which brought her into conflict with the London police. She was accused among other things of raising money by means of fraudulent notes and bills, and warrants were issued for her arrest. For two months she remained concealed in London, thanks to the assistance of her friend, the wine merchant, and in April, 1876, she finally succeeded in escaping from England and in making her way to France. Finding, however, that the British police were about to demand her extradition, she appealed for assistance to a lady who was renowned for her devo-

for the sake of the name of Bonaparte, advanced the \$7,000 which were needed to stop the prosecution and to effect a compromise with the persons who had been defrauded. From that time forth both Princess Justine and her two children, Roland and Jeanne, lived at Paris upon the charity of benevolent people, especially of those belonging to the Bonapartist cause. It was a precarious livelihood, however, at the best, and by degrees everything that the little family possessed found its way to the pawnshop. In the autumn of 1877 Princess Justine, rendered desperate for want of money, sent all her pawn-



PRINCESS DE MONACO.

tickets to Marshal MacMahon, who was at that time president of the republic, imploring his assistance. The kind-hearted old soldier sent back to her by his aid-de-camp, Col. Robert, her pawn-tickets and a sum of \$300.

Prince Napoleon, surnamed Plon-plon, and his sister, Princess Matilda, likewise each contributed a few hundred dollars to Justine on the condition that the money should be applied to the schooling of Roland. The father, however, Prince Peter, refused to have anything to do with his children, having contracted a fresh left-handed alliance. At his death, in 1881, it was found that he left everything he possessed to his young son, the issue of his later liaison. It was by charity, too, that Roland was placed in a position to enter the military college of St. Cyr. On graduating from the latter, with the rank of lieutenant, an American born lady of title whose husband, a French count, had served in the civil war here, interested herself in behalf of the young soldier, whose name and misfortunes aroused her sympathy. Being acquainted with the old Widow Blanc, the relic of the founder of the Monte Carlo establishment, she conceived the idea of marrying Roland to Mme. Blanc's daughter Marie. The marriage took place at Paris, in 1880, and the bridegroom received on the day of his wedding not only a part ownership in the gambling estab-



ALICE MAROT-MME. EDMOND BLANC.

lishment, but also 1,000,000 francs down in French government bonds. Eighteen months later Roland's wife, who had meanwhile given birth to a little girl, died in the most sudden and unaccountable manner. Indeed, such were the circumstances of her death that the government at one moment was on the point of interfering, and was only deterred therefrom, so it was said at Paris, by the influence which Roland's brother-in-law, Edmond Blanc, was able to bring to bear upon President Grevy through the latter's son-in-law, Wilson. People in Paris do not hesitate to assert that Marie Blanc had come to be regarded both by her husband and especially by her mother-in-law, Princess Justine Bonaparte, as an obstacle to the ambitious projects which the old lady as well as her son are well known to entertain. The prince is now endeavoring to secure the hand of Princess Letitia, daughter of the late Prince Napoleon, and widow of King Humbert's brother, the late duke of Aosta. Should that marriage ever take place Prince Roland considers that he will be in a position to put forward his claim to the chieftaincy of the Bonapartist party. But little importance is attached

at Paris to the interest which he affects in scientific pursuits. And it is with equal contempt that the scientific pretensions of the reigning prince of Monaco are regarded by all the leading French savants, many of whom have acquired by conversation with the prince the conviction that he does not know anything whatsoever about the questions treated in the elaborate reports presented to the various scientific societies of Europe in his name. He is fond of inviting savants to make use of his yacht for purposes of exploration, and then of appropriating their discoveries as his own. A notable case of this kind furnished the theme of a vast amount of discussion in the French scientific papers during the past summer. With regard to the assertion so frequently made that he no longer derives any pecuniary benefit from the gaming tables, it is merely necessary to refer to the annual report of the Societe des Jeux de Monte Carlo, which shows that for the year 1891 he received as his share of the profits a net sum of 10,000,000 francs. In addition to this the firm, in accordance with the terms of its contract, paid to him his civil list of 1,000,000, and defrayed the entire expenses both of his household and of his government. A careful perusal of the contract between the prince, as ruler of Monaco, and the firm of Monte Carlo will show conclusively that he has the

lease at any time. He should therefore bear the full moral responsibility of all the iniquities practiced at Monte Carlo.

The prince's present wife, the widowed Duchesse de Richelieu, a daughter of the Parisian Hebrew banker Heine, did not bear the very best of reputations previous to her marriage. She has been the heroine of several sensational scandals, and is known not only to have lived with the prince of Monaco, but also to have borne him two children previous to her being united to him in the legal bonds of matrimony. Her character, indeed, was so notorious that the prince's father, the late Charles III., of Monaco, would not bear of the match, which he pronounced as in every way unworthy even for his son, and it was not until several weeks after his death that the wedding at length took place. Although the prince possesses a long string of titles, and is received with the honors due to a crowned head at certain of the courts of Europe, yet the blood that runs in his veins is of a very plebeian character, as his grandmother, Marie Louise Gilbert, was the daughter of a small shopkeeper at Paris, while his grandfather was an actor at the Ambigu theater in the French metropolis. His existence as a reigning sovereign tends to bring royalty into contempt and ridicule, while his life as an individual is of a character almost as ignominious as that of Prince Constantine Radziwill, whose vices are of the most indescribable character.

The prince of Monaco's career has been one long succession of shameful scandals, which have been kept out of the press mainly through the efforts of his paymasters, the Monte Carlo firm, who consider it to their interests to endeavor by all means in their power to maintain the remnants of his reputation and of his prestige as much as possible unimpaired. Few people are aware of the fact that when, by his shameful immorality, practiced even under his very roof, he drove his first wife, Lady Mary Hamilton, to seek refuge abroad with her child, he attempted to subject her to the same treatment suffered by Queen Nathalie, of Serbia, a few years ago at Wiesbaden. That is to say, a commissary of the Italian police, accompanied by several constables in uniform, called at the hotel at Milan where she was staying and demanded in the name of the Italian government that the princess should surrender to them her son; threatening to use force unless she did so. Just as they were in the very moment of putting their menaces into execution the door suddenly opened, and Grand Duchess Katherine of Russia, who had been attracted to the spot by the noise, darted into the room, seized the little prince in her arms and retreated with him to her own apartment, daring the commissary of police to molest her in any way. Aware of the rank of the grand duchess and also of the trouble certain to ensue if so near a relative of the czar were to meet with any official disgrace in Italy, the police withdrew, and on the following day the grand duchess, accompanied by the princess of Monaco and the little prince, crossed the frontier into Switzerland without any further attempt being made to seize the child. The latter remained with his mother until her marriage was finally annulled by the pope, since which time he has spent part of each year with his father and part with his mother, who is now the wife of the Hungarian magnate, Count Tassilo Festetics.

From this it will be seen that the four men who own and run the gambling tables at Monte Carlo are entirely unworthy of any consideration, respect or confidence. Indeed, there are many other things that might be told of each one of them, but which will not bear repetition in print. American visitors to the south of France this winter who enter the doors of the Monte Carlo gambling establishment will do well to bear in mind the character of the owners of the place in whose hands they place themselves. Possibly, however, they may avoid this beautiful spot when they remember that although the population of Monaco does not exceed 4,000 all told, yet that there have been during the last seven years no less than 4,212 duly authenticated cases of suicide in the principality.

JOHNNY WAS NO FARMER.

The Professor of Bumps Made the Biggest Mistake of His Life.

Johnny is a bright lad of twelve winters and summers, and if he keeps on at the rate he is now traveling he is destined to become a great man, says the St. Louis Republic. His mother gave him a quarter the other day, he instead of investing in marbles or balls he determined to consult a phrenologist in order, as he said, "to find out what he was good for." He visited a neighboring expert in bumps and deposited his quarter, with the remark:

"Mister, please tell me all you know 'bout me. See?"

The phrenologist placed Johnny in a chair, and, beginning in a very impressive voice, said:

"Young man, your forte in life lies in the direction of the country. You should be a farmer."

There was a moment of silence while the expert felt his way through Johnny's bristling hair. Finally the phrenologist began again:

"Ah, young man, here is another and more decided bump. This protuberance denotes want of energy. You should exert yourself to run about, play with other boys, take more exercise, and—"

"Hully gee!" shouted Johnny, wriggling out of the professor's grasp.

"Keep off'n that lump. I got it turnin' somersets yesterday and 'tain't gone down yet."

The Flight of a Cannon Ball.

The well-known scientific photographer, Anselmi, of Liass, has for some years been experimenting in making photographs of the flight of cannon balls from the instant they leave the muzzle of the gun to the time of their striking the object aimed at. After many attempts and failures he finally succeeded in obtaining highly interesting results, not reaching what he called the same of perfection, however, until in May, 1890. The plates of this last-mentioned experiment were submitted to Dr. Koenig, of the Berlin university, who was able to make, therefrom, the long-sought practical calculations. From figures thus deduced Dr. Koenig established the fact that the projectile photographed had been passing through the air with a velocity of four hundred meters per second, and that the duration of the flight thrown on the photographic plates had not exceeded the

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